

The



Broadsheet

December 2022



To know Jesus better,
And to make Him better known

Dear friends

I am writing this in the week after the Church Away Day. You will find Marilyn's report of the day in this copy of the Broadsheet – I hope that everyone who attended felt a sense of fellowship. We may not have reached any particular conclusions, but the discussions will all contribute as we continue to explore the way forward for Broadway URC. Thank you to everyone.

Revd Stuart Scott reminded us of the hymn 'Our God is a great big God'. While the song is primarily aimed at younger people, it applies to each and every one of us:

He is higher than a skyscraper, and he's deeper than a submarine.

He's wider than the universe, and beyond my wildest dreams.
And he's known me and he's loved me since before the world began.

How wonderful to be a part of God's amazing plan!

*Our God is a great big God, our God is a great big God
our God is a great big God and he holds us in his hands.*

(words and music by Jo and
Nigel Hemming)

All too often as human beings, we forget how great God is. As Revd Dr John Bradbury reminded those of us who heard him at the recent West Midlands Synod meeting, "God loves me, and he also loves those with whom I profoundly disagree". In the hymn 'There's a wideness in God's mercy', Frederick W Faber wrote the words:

"But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own"

As we come into this Advent season, and are reminded again of God's huge love for his world, and the tremendous grace he showers on us, let us take time to marvel and to wonder. Listen for the angels' song, rejoice with the shepherds and the Magi. Jesus Christ was born and lived on earth all those years ago, yet his message carries on in us who seek to follow in his footsteps, and we are called to share it.

The Elders wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas. Let's walk together into 2023 with renewed hope, underpinned by God's great love.

Marion



Carols by Candlelight

A lovely time of peace and calm in the run up to Christmas.

Sing and enjoy Christmas carols in the candlelit Chapel followed by warm drinks and mince pies.

Sunday 18th December 2022 , 3 - 4 pm.

Why not invite a friend, neighbour or family member to come with you ?

There are invitations for your guest and some suggestions for you at the back of the church

Services in December

All services start at 10.30am. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments in the Church Hall after the service.

- Sunday 4th December Michael Payne with
Rev. K Louch - Communion
- Sunday 11th December Worship Group
- Sunday 18th December Carol Service at 3pm
No service at 10.30am
- Sunday 25th December Rev. Kathryn Louch

Please check the Church website for an up to date schedule

Birthday Celebrations

- 2nd December Marion Tunwell*
- 5th December Noel Kershaw*
- 8th December Maggie Tucker*
- 9th December Richard Becher*
- 16th December Vicki Packman*



Report on Away Day on 21st November.

This day was, I think, seen to be a very successful day with everyone feeling involved and valued. 26 people attended with contributions from others unable to attend in person.

The day started with a short worship by the facilitator Rev. Stuart Scott. In his worship he prayed that the whole process should be 'Underpinned by God' and that we should put the discussions into his hands. The day was divided into 4 sessions Worship and Spirituality in the morning, and Fellowship and Bringing It All Together in the afternoon. Coffee, biscuits and a lovely buffet allowed everyone to be fed physically as well as spiritually.

The morning sessions involved groups writing their responses to questions on flip chart papers which will be typed up later at the Synod office. There was a short time over lunch where people could view the responses.

The first afternoon session was on Fellowship and what makes a good and effective team. Following a short discussion in groups we were each asked to fill in a 'Church Jigsaw' looking at our own strengths and these were then collated. Of the 12 triangles surrounding Mission, Faith, Care and Order, 5 scored more highly than the others: these being Service, Admin, Outreach, Fellowship and Worship.

The last session pulled things together to try to see how the Church could identify its Needs, set its Aims and Objectives, what was the Motivation, the Means and the Method of doing this and how could plans be Implemented (NAOMIE with E being Evaluation)

Some items to be addressed in the future were listed as:

Finance and Administration. Synod might be able to help with SPECIFIC requests.

Communication especially website and Broadsheet publication.

Responses to the Questionnaire to see how burdens could be lifted from Elders if people were willing to take on certain jobs and then be trusted to get on with them.

Worship and Prayer

Focal Point of the Community.

The day finished with a short hymn and prayer and The Grace.

A Note from The Broadsheet Editor.

Dear friends,

I first started compiling The Broadsheet in the summer of 2010 and have enjoyed it greatly.

However, due to family circumstances and demands on my time I now feel that I cannot give as much time as I would like to the role. Sadly, this will be the last Broadsheet with me as Editor.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and 2023.

Kath

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